

**From:** Sean Rose  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/25/02 11:18am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

I am writing to express my concern with the settlement of the Microsoft anti-trust case. I find it hard to believe that a company that is guilty of fraud and anti-competitive prices is getting any breaks at all. I ask for the most severe restrictions and punishments that can be levied against Microsoft.

I am a computer programmer. I have been working with computers since 1982 and have experience in a number of computer platforms. Apple is a wonderful technology company that almost everyone agrees has been hurt by Microsoft's illegal dealings. However, Apple's technology is so far ahead of MS, that I am not worried about them. The people that I worry about are the startup companies... the entrepreneurs that start the new revolutionary company that change the way will work and live. These companies cannot start under Microsoft's current reign. That hurts competition, deprives the consumer of choice and leaves us stuck with an overpriced inferior product called Windows.

A perfect example is the stellar BeOS. BeOS is simply the best operating system created and put to market. It was easy to use and pretty, as well as being devilishly fast and 100% reliable. When BeOS came out for the x86 platform (Intel Pentium compatible processors) the entire developer community was excited. Here you had a super stable OS with a great set of free developer tools and what looked to be a skyrocketing market of users.

But that fell through very quickly when Microsoft pulled out their license with OEMs and read, "You cannot put any other operating system on a computer sold with Windows (pick your version here)." So, all the excitement became, well, yeah it's the best, but what's the point? Microsoft shut them down and now all of those people are out of work and BeOS is gone. What very well could have been the next revolution in computing is now nothing more than a small blurb in a history book. That is adversely affecting the economy.

They stole the Macintosh interface and called it Windows 95 -- hurting one of the most inventive and progressive computing companies ever. They killed Netscape. They have put security as a minimum priority, a Microsoft memo published on the web says, "unless security promotes the bottom line, it goes." Less than one month ago, Bill Gates himself said that the company would be focusing more on security. Why? The some 60,000 viruses for Windows are getting out of hand and after selling themselves to businesses as the best business platform, it's becoming quite obvious that any UNIX flavor is easily a better solution for a secure, business computer.

To bring the problem back to a personal level -- just think of using Word. How many times has it messed up a document you were working on? Do you know any one who likes Word? I don't. We have to use Word because Microsoft killed Word Perfect, Lotus Word Pro and all the other word processing programs. One thing Microsoft learned was good marketing can sell anything to everyone.

I am not opposed to that either, obviously we all take responsibility for making uninformed choices. However, the bad choices of the public have steamrolled us into the position of no longer having a choice and leaving Microsoft to do as they please.

I have stopped using Microsoft products and no longer develop software for Windows. I can only imagine that someday my family will be one of those getting laid off or unable to fulfill their dreams because we are trying to compete in a field where there is no competition and no rules. I won't be a part of that. Please take all steps you can to levy the heaviest punishment you can on Microsoft.

Sean Rose  
srose@cycline3.com  
<http://www.cycline3.com>